

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Serial No. 10/052,397
Sughrue Ref: Q68214

REMARKS

Statement of Interview

Dealing with preliminary matters first, Applicants thank the Examiner and Supervisor for the courtesies extended to the Applicants' representative during the personal interview conducted on January 8, 2004. Applicants further thank the Examiner for indicating that independent claim 5 is "patentably distinguishable from the prior art of record." The Examiner and supervisor agreed that the projecting length of JP 06-052913's spacer 4 (positioning projection) is not greater than the projecting length of the terminals 3.

Formal Matters

Claims 1-10 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, and 5 are independent claims. The Examiner has objected to claims 1 and 2 because of minor informalities. Applicants have amended these informalities and respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the objection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 3 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite. Applicants have amended these claims so that it is clear that the groove is formed at a tip end portion of said positioning projection "to split said positioning projection" into at least two pieces in a longitudinal direction of said positioning projection. In view of this amendment, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

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Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Claims 5-7 and 10

Claims 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly anticipated by newly cited JP 06-52913 (“JP ‘913”). Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over JP ‘913 in view of previously cited Wang (US 6,083,044).

JP ‘913 appears to show a connector socket having a plurality of terminals 3, a spacer 4, and a fitting leg parts 5 (attachment arms). JP ‘913 at Fig. 1. It is the Examiner’s position that the spacers 4 correspond to the claimed “positioning projections.”

However, as is discussed above with respect to the personal interview, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection at least because JP ‘913 does not teach or suggest that projecting length of the spacer 4 from the attachment surface is greater than the projection lengths of the terminals 3 from the attachment surface. Instead, the projecting length of the spacer 4 is less than that of the terminals 4. JP ‘913 at Figs. 3-5.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 5 at least for the reasons discussed above, and to withdraw the rejection of claim 10 at least because of its dependency from claim 5. In addition, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claims 6 and 7 at least because of their dependency from claim 5 and because Wang (which the Examiner cites in an attempt to show a groove at the tip end of the positioning projection) does not cure the deficiency in JP ‘913 discussed above.

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Claims 1-4, 8 and 9

Claims 1-4, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly obvious over Wang.

As an initial matter, Applicants note that the claims merely require the projection portion to be integrally formed with the attachment surface and do not require that the projecting portion is one-piece, as asserted by the Examiner.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 2, Applicants have amended the claims to recite that that the attachment arm is provided at a side surface, *which is not the attachment surface*, of the board connector. As such, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Turning to Fig. 7 of Wang, it is clear that the unlabeled portions alleged by the Examiner as corresponding to the recited attachment arm (Examiner's Attachment A of Office Action dated April 3, 2003- Paper No. 9) are provided at the attachment surface. Wang at Fig. 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1 and 2 for at least the reasons discussed above, and the rejection of claims 3, 4, 8, and 9 at least because of its dependency from one of claims 1 and 2.

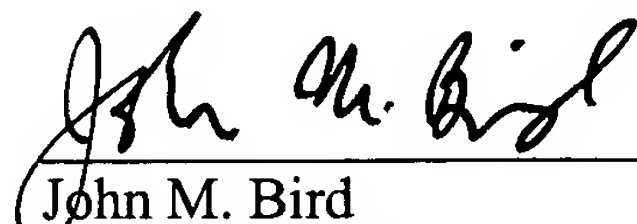
Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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